June 30, 1899. - 3 M. - #10.25 De La Mare

ANNUAL REPORT
...of...
Young People's Department.
1898-1899.

Presbyterian Home Missions.

156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Contributions from Young People's Organizations.

SYNODS.	AMOUNTS.
Atlantic	$22.99
Baltimore	2,204.98
California	1,861.37
Catawba	4.10
Colorado	391.17
Illinois	1,886.87
Indiana	1,293.00
Indian Ter.	76.21
Iowa	1,666.54
Kansas	742.84
Kentucky	385.16
Michigan	1,310.08
Minnesota	1,182.59
Missouri	516.82
Montana	59.00
Nebraska	389.49
New Jersey	4,248 43
New Mexico	27.00
New York	11,243.02
North Dakota	32.47
Ohio	4,073.08
Oregon	89.35
Pennsylvania	10,203.84
South Dakota	177.63
Tennessee	169.80
Texas	156.75
Utah	98.74
Washington	128.92
Wisconsin	622.88

ANNUAL REPORT.

Young People's Department.

As the branch is to the tree, so is the Young People's Department to the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board. Organized six years ago because of the phenomenal growth of Christian Endeavor Societies, the development has been most vigorous. Prior to 1896 two secretaries were in charge of the work, but since that date one secretary—chosen by both boards—has presented impartially Evangelization and Mission School Work.

A system strictly Presbyterian is followed through the medium of Young People's secretaries elected by the Woman's Synodical and Presbyterial Societies, and thus is demonstrated the wisdom of General Assembly in giving to the women of our church the supervision of Home Mission work in these comparatively new organizations. During the past year our young people have rallied loyally and re-doubled their efforts, fearful lest the

enthusiasm and tender sympathy for soldier and sailor should interfere with regular contributions.

And so we come to the close of our fiscal year giving thanks to our God who has so graciously blessed the means used for increasing the interest of Presbyterian young people in Home Mission work.

Our giving may have cost something at the moment, but the words of a new secretary, "If my work has not helped *many* of the young people in our Presbytery it has helped *one* beyond all telling" have been echoed all along the line of faithful workers. To the consecrated, untiring energy of Synodical and Presbyterial secretaries who have responded heartily to plans and suggestions from headquarters, is due highest praise. The work has broadened in many ways. Presbyterial returns show that letters to local officers outlining work, and expressing words of counsel and encouragement have been more frequent. Personal visitation is practiced more than formerly. Monthly missionary meetings are more general than a year ago. Attendance at Synodical and Presbyterial gatherings is more marked, and the "Young People's Hour" at these meetings is growing to be a special feature of the program. Offerings are made and forwarded in a more regular and systematic way, and the coming year will show larger re-

sults in giving, because of the many who are learning the blessedness of tithing the Lord's money.

"Our missionary" is more real since prayer circles have grown in number, and many more have learned that "the spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him the more intensely missionary we become."

Many of our young people have supplemented their regular contributions by preparing Christmas boxes for their missionaries. Little papers edited by some of the secretaries are proving helpful, creating a thirst for wider knowledge. In fact, the marked growth of the year is in the demand for missionary intelligence, especially for the letters sent from this Department. The new plan for missionary letters—regarded as experimental—has proved most satisfactory. Instead of requiring long letters from individual missionaries, a letter covering each field has been prepared at the office from letters and reports, representing each missionary assigned C. E. Societies. If preferred, these letters may be divided for use in several meetings. They are mailed from the office to all societies who have expressed a desire for them by signing a blank used for the purpose. As the work is thus systematized it can be done promptly, and any failure to receive the missionary letters regularly is due to

the failure of missionary committees to renew the blanks. The object intended for our letters —that of imparting a broader knowledge of Home Mission work—is evidently gained. Thousands of these printed sheets and thousands of cyclostyled pages have been distributed in answer to requests, while innumerable appeals for entire programs for meetings or for missionary reading have been fully answered.

As far as practicable the work has been presented at Presbyterian Rallies connected with the State and other C. E. Conventions, and Denominational Loyalty has been the keynote at all such gatherings.

Many of our societies desire a specific plan or object laid before them, and the special work assigned the various Synods—the support of a missionary and a missionary teacher—has been enthusiastically adopted. However, instructions from this Department to the Young People's Secretaries seek to impress this point: *special objects* should not be urged *in place* of regular contributions to the General Fund of the Boards.

The recommendation of General Assembly that two Sabbaths each year should be set apart by our Sabbath schools for special Home Mission offerings has been regarded. For the Sabbath preceding Thanksgiving contributions were asked for the Training School at Sitka,

Alaska, under the care of the Woman's Board. Instead of the usual program, an illustrated letter was prepared and furnished wherever desired in sufficient quantities for each member of the Sabbath school.

A special program on general Home Mission work, arranged for the Sabbath preceding Washington's birthday, won hearty commendation from pastors and superintendents. Of our 7,000 Sabbath schools only 480 have observed these special days. Therefore, to the Sessions of our churches must the Board look for a more hearty co-operation in carrying out this special recommendation of the Assembly, and upon the women's societies must the Woman's Board leave the responsibility of urging the special Sabbath set apart for mission school offerings. The total contributions from Sabbath schools have been

Home Board	$19,063.95
Woman's Board	17,082.51

In the year 1888 the first C. E. contributions for mission school work were $32.41. This year the C. E.'s have given to the Woman's Board $17,897.07, and to the Home Board (not including the amounts contributed for the debt) $5,573.50, a total of $23,470.57. According to the action of General Assembly, contributions from C. E. Societies were sent through the Presbyterial Treasurers, and from undesignated funds the sum of $6,161.78 was

transferred to the treasurer of the Board at the close of the fiscal year, making the equal division for "Evangelization and Mission School Work."

Other young people's societies, including Bands, Westminster Leagues, etc., have contributed to the Board $1,488.52, and to the Woman's Board $20,147.38, a total of $21,635.90, a gain of $617.03 over last year. These amounts are principally for scholarships and shares.

This report would not be complete without special mention of the faithful Juniors and their earnest leaders. The special objects assigned to them have been the Asheville Farm School and the Seven Indian Churches on the Sisseton Reservation. Two hundred and eighty-four Junior C. E. Societies have contributed to one or both of these objects, while others have sent offerings for the general work or toward the payment of the debt.

And now at the close of another year we lay these efforts at the feet of Him "whose we are and whom we serve," realizing more and more our *individual* responsibility, and we press forward with new earnestness and new zeal, taking as our text for the year just opening, Ephesians 6 : 7, "With good will doing service as to the Lord, and not to man."

M. Josephine Petrie, Secretary.